

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claim 2 is objected to due to a typographical error. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crivella. Claims 1 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burke. Claims 8-15 are allowed. Claims 2-4, 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.


Claim 2 has been amended herein to correct the typographical error identified by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 5 are cancelled, and claims 2-4, 6 and 7 are each placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective cancelled independent claim. These changes place objected to claims 2-4, 6 and 7 in condition for allowance.

The applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter because the statement may have unintentionally introduced ambiguity into the examination of the claims of this patent application. The Examiner has paraphrased the language set forth in several of the allowed claims as a statement of reasons for allowance. This might give the impression that all of the stated limitations must be present in a single claim for the claim to be allowed, yet this is not consistent with the Examiner's allowance of individual claims having varying scopes. The applicant respectfully submits that any ambiguity in the prosecution history that could result due to inaccuracies and/or inconsistencies in the statement of reasons of allowance not be interpreted against the applicant, since the express language of each of the allowed claims should supersede and control over any claim-paraphrasing language that may have been used as part of the statement of reasons for allowance. The applicant understands that the Examiner may review and respond to the comments set forth herein at his discretion.

Reconsideration of the amended application and allowance of claims 2-4, 6-15 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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